

The 90-Day Prosperity Experiment

Day 29: The Game *by Kate Nowak*

Hello from my heart to yours!

In the early thirties, during the Great Depression, an out-of-work salesman named Charles Darrow found money in short supply, jobs non-existent and his family in need. Like countless others, Darrow had every reason to be worried and no one would have blamed him.

But realizing that worry helped nothing, Charles and his wife, Ester, resisted the urge and, instead, spent the hours re-inventing a modestly popular folk game that had been around for 30 years or more. The game, which allowed players to rent properties, pay taxes and utilities and do their best to avoid going to "jail" and/or the "poorhouse" was called Landlord.

Landlord had already been reinvented a dozen or more times by various individuals, and a few had even marketed it with marginable success. But in early 1934, a friend showed Darrow a version of the game that reflected a favorite resort location of the time. It was rather lackluster in appearance and focused primarily on the greed of marketplace monopolizers. In that version, as well as its predecessors, players actually had to be the "bad" guy to win.

Darrow decided to revamp it completely, creating a more colorful game board

with game pieces based on items found in his own home, a square playing surface instead of a circular one and streets and properties that were color-coded to correspond with the board. The "poorhouse" was done away with completely, and the rules rewritten to focus more on financial strategy than greed. In short, he made the game more fun to play.

Together, while economic depression raged all around them, Charles and Ester spent countless happy hours playing and refining the game, becoming mental millionaires over and over again as they bought, sold and rented property in this miniaturized version of Atlantic City, the resort area where, in more prosperous times the couple had spent many enjoyable days.

They renamed the newly revamped game Monopoly and after perfecting the rules, invited close friends and neighbors to play their new version along with them. Those friends clamored to buy their own copies of the game and encouraged the couple to market this newest version.

Based on this encouragement, Charles Darrow soon found himself demonstrating Monopoly in the stores of Philadelphia where people by the hundreds stood in line to buy it. When orders for the 1934 Christmas season were so great the couple could not possibly fill them, Darrow then sought out Parker Brothers, and sold rights to the game in exchange for royalties. Within a year, the Darrows were millionaires. All because in a time when life seemed dismal and doomed, Charles and Ester Darrow opted to play with possibility.

Whether you have an immediate need for money, a health concern, or are dealing a relationship gone awry, no matter what the difficulty may be, it will not be solved by your worry. In fact, the more you worry, the farther you will remove yourself from the solution you seek.

So today, no matter what your problems might be, I urge you to follow Darrow's lead and play with possibility instead. Add a splash of color to whatever bleak thoughts you're entertaining, change the shape of your current mindset, and start strategizing with the playful side of your nature. Look for a more joyful way to approach life, and you'll soon find life to be more enjoyable.

Life, after all, is a wonderful game of infinite potentiality. Why not play it that way?

Today's Action Step:

1. Re-read your Prosperity Business Plan and your Ten Things Gratitude List.
2. Place today's allotment of money in your container and read the affirmation on the container three times. Expect to receive in return.
3. Bless those around you, including your fellow participants in this experiment. See those you bless prospering and surrounded by good. Then bless yourself and see the same. You may also want to continue blessing those on the blessing request list.

4. Return to the blessings requests and read the responses being posted by those who have been blessed. (you'll find a link at the bottom of this email, or simply go to bettertobless.com and click on "Request a Blessing")Your blessings are making a difference. Reading the responses will give you an opportunity to see for yourself.

Today's Quote:

"Not a shred of evidence exists in favor of the idea that life is serious."

~Brendan Gill

Today's Affirmation:

"I play the game of life exceptionally well."

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<http://prosperity.blessingsexperiment.com>

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